The following is a complete listing of all claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

Listing of claims:

1-28. (cancelled)

29. (currently amended) A computer implemented process for identifying companies likely to outsource services, the computer performing the steps of:

importing from various data providers publicly available information comprising SEC filings, executive management changes, corporate mergers and acquisitions, and holding in a single data base the imported data for all companies including Positive Examples, Negative Examples and Candidate Examples including thousands of Candidate Examples, where Positive Examples are companies that have signed an outsourcing contract on a specific recent date, Negative Examples are companies clearly not interested in outsourcing on a specific recent date, and Candidate Examples are potential candidates for outsourcing;

reducing or extracting the publically available information held in the database to obtain a set of metrics or features inputtable to a mathematical model;

applying data mining techniques to the publicly available information, and identifying Positive Examples each Positive Example being uniquely defined by a name of a company that signed an outsourcing contract with any provider of services to be outsourced and a date of signing of the contract; and further identifying Negative Examples each Negative Example being uniquely

defined by a name of a company unlikely to outsource said services and a date of a predisposition not to outsource;

constructing the mathematical model, including constructing the model to take as inputs the metrics or features for each Positive Example of outsourcing of said services and each Negative Example of a ~~disposition~~ predisposition not to outsource said services;

initially presenting all metrics or features to the model, followed by selecting a subset of metrics or features that are mathematically most likely to differentiate Positive Examples of outsourcing of said services and Negative Examples of a ~~disposition~~ predisposition not to outsource said services;

training the mathematical model with the Positive Examples and the Negative Examples;

categorizing each example as a Positive Example of outsourcing of said services, a Negative Example of a ~~disposition~~ predisposition not to outsource said services or a Candidate company, wherein a Candidate company is a candidate for outsourcing of said services;

for the categorized example, identifying a signal period, with the signal period being a time over which the metrics or features will be defined; with the signal period identification comprising:

specifying the signal periods for said Negative Examples;

specifying the signal periods for said Positive Examples;

including, for a company having both a Negative Example of a ~~disposition~~ predisposition not to outsource said services and a subsequent Positive Example of outsourcing of said services, introducing a Blackout Period so that a signal period for the Negative Example for the company having both Negative and subsequent Positive Examples exhibits no influence with regard to the subsequent Positive Example for the same company;

specifying the signal periods for Candidate examples;

predicting a likelihood or propensity that each Candidate company will enter into an outsourcing contract for said services at a current date;

as to the predicted likelihood or propensities, ranking the Candidate companies and outputting a target list in which the Candidate companies are ranked.